



Afternoon Alert - Monday, July 30, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters led with reports on the damage caused by Typhoon Jongdari in the Tokai and other regions on Sunday, adding that the storm has now moved south of Kyushu.

INTERNATIONAL

INDOPACOM commander holds talks with defense minister

TBS reported that Admiral Davidson, the commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, held talks with Defense Minister Onodera at the minister's office on Monday morning. The network said that while Onodera expressed the view that North Korea has not yet taken any concrete actions to abandon its nuclear and missile programs, the INDOPACOM commander reportedly said that North Korea's return of the remains of American soldiers killed in the Korean War is a "very positive move." The broadcaster added that the two officials also discussed the situation in the South China Sea, where China is building military bases.

- [Abe trying to gauge public opinion thorough bipartisan leagues related to North Korean issues](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Return of U.S. soldiers' remains won't lead to denuclearization of N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [North Korea has established team to negotiate with Japan: sources](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan mulls asking China to jointly develop infrastructure in Africa](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Mongolia intends to help realize Japan-N. Korea summit](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Japan entrepreneurs seek fortunes in Southeast Asia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Repeated dialogue needed to avert trade war between U.S. and EU](#) (The Japan News)

- [Japan's INPEX begins production in Australian LNG project](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to survey disputed islets in Aug. for projects with Russia](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 27, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 28, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 29, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Upper House members of Takeshita faction to back Ishiba in LDP presidential race](#) (Sankei)
- [76% of LDP lawmakers support Abe's re-election as party leader, Kyodo News poll](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Koizumi drawing attention as a key person in LDP presidential race](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [4 secretaries to the prime minister retained](#) (Nikkei)
- [PM advisor: Abe should stay on](#) (Sankei)
- [List of newly appointed and retired MOF officials](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: IRs](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [Two-thirds negative about 6-seat increase in upper house, Mainichi poll](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Three-fourths not convinced by gov't explanations on Moritomo, Kake controversies, Mainichi poll](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

Tracking down fragments of Einstein's brain

Sunday's "NHK Special" took up Albert Einstein's brain, which was removed from his body after he died in 1955 to probe the mysteries of one of the greatest scientific minds of the 20th century. His brain was dissected into more than 200 pieces by a University of Pennsylvania pathologist and distributed to scholars around the world for further research. NHK attempted to locate the previous and present owners of the pieces in a bid to figure out how Einstein was able to achieve so many groundbreaking discoveries. The broadcaster successfully located 134 pieces, but the remaining 92 are still unaccounted for.

The "crisis" of Japanese sperm

Saturday's "NHK Special" reported on a steep drop in sperm motility among Japanese men and examined the factors behind growing infertility in Japan. Japanese men's sperm is reportedly deteriorating in count, motility, and morphology. In addition to the effects of chemical agents, several daily habits appear to be responsible, such as excessive intake of saturated fat, lack of sleep, and sitting for long periods. The program claimed that rectifying such habits is important for improving sperm quality. For instance, sleeping for extended periods increases testosterone, which plays a key role in improving sperm motility.

EDUCATION

- [Commentary: Japan's universities need more global ties](#) (The Japan Times)
- [High school teachers "lack information" to support students in studying abroad, MEXT survey](#) (Yomiuri)

SOCIETY

- [Wife of Nepalese man who died during interrogation sues state, Tokyo Metropolitan Government](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Majority of A-bomb survivors want Japan to join nuke ban treaty, Kyodo News poll](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

Over 100,000 residents sign petition calling for plebiscite on Futenma relocation

Asahi reported online that over 100,000 residents of Okinawa have signed a petition calling for a referendum to be held on the current plan to build the FRF off Camp Schwab. Since the figure is well over the 1/50th, or 23,000, of registered voters needed to enact an ordinance on holding a prefectural-wide referendum, the daily projected that such a decree will be probably passed by the prefectural assembly in September. The paper speculated that a plebiscite on Futenma relocation might be held in December at the earliest.

MOD selects Lockheed radar for SDF missile defense platform

TBS reported on an announcement made by Defense Minister Onodera this afternoon that his ministry has officially decided to use the SSR radar produced by Lockheed-Martin for the Aegis Ashore batteries to be procured for the GSDF. According to the defense chief, the cost of procuring the ground-based state-of-the-art missile defense system will be around 134 billion yen per unit, more than 30% higher than the original estimate.

PAC-3 interceptors to be withdrawn from SDF camps

NHK reported that according to a source connected to the Defense Ministry, the ministry has decided to withdraw as early as today the PAC-3 interceptors that have been deployed temporarily at five locations, including Hokkaido, since almost a year ago to defend against possible ballistic missile launches by North Korea. The decision was reportedly made based on the assessment that the DPRK is unlikely to stage provocations for the time being amid its rapid reconciliation with the U.S. following the historic Singapore summit between President Trump and Kim Jong Un. However, the PAC-3 battery currently installed on the Defense Ministry premises in central Tokyo will reportedly remain in place.

- [Editorial: Gov't should wait until after gubernatorial race to decide on Henoko landfill](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Deceit, broken promises lie at heart of Henoko base issue row](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Withdrawal of Henoko landfill approval used too much for political purposes](#) (The Japan News)

- [Japan looks to Greece for first major defense export](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

U.S. military dumped radioactive water at bases in eastern Japan after 3/11

Monday's Okinawa Times led with an article written by freelance British journalist Jon Mitchell, who claimed that the U.S. military discharged over 33,000 gallons of radioactive water into sewage at Misawa AB and NAF Atsugi in June 2011, explaining that the contaminated water was produced as a result of the decontamination of military vehicles and other equipment used in Operation Tomodachi. The radioactive level of the water was "low" according to internal military documents, but the reporter insisted that the exact level remains unknown. A USFJ spokesperson reportedly acknowledged that the water was discharged, but underscored that it was judged to be safe under Japanese government regulations.

- [USG officials comment on withdrawal of Henoko landfill permit](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Family of robbery victim in Okinawa asks GOJ for condolence money](#) (Okinawa Times)
 - [Governors' association makes first-ever request for SOFA revision](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Ishigaki mayor refuses to accept citizens' statement of protest against GSDF deployment](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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